

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pinion carrier comprising:

a first annular body having an outer surface
and an inner surface and a plurality of legs
5 projecting from the circumference of the inner
surface and terminating in a flat surface;

a second annular body having an outer surface
and an inner surface and a plurality of legs
projecting from the circumference of the inner
10 surface and terminating on a flat surface; and

the flat surfaces of the legs of said first
annular body being joined to the flat surface of
the respective legs of the second annular body.

15 2. Method of producing a pinion carrier for
planetary gear assembly comprising the steps of:

1) cold forming a first cup-shaped body
having an outer surface and an inner surface and a
circumferential side wall with a longitudinal
20 central axis and including a plurality of spaced
apart legs terminating in flat surfaces;

2) cold forming a second cup-shaped body
having an outer surface and an inner surface and a
circumferential side wall with a longitudinal
25 central axis and including a plurality of spaced
apart legs terminating in flat surfaces;

3) causing the first and second bodies to be
positioned such that the flat surfaces of the legs

of the respective bodies are in juxtaposed
contacting relation; and

4) welding the contacting surfaces of the
legs of the bodies together.

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3. The method defined in Claim 2 wherein at least
one of the cup-shaped bodies is provided with a
centrally formed aperture.

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4. The method defined in claim 3 including the
step of joining a torque transfer structure to
circumscribe the aperture in one of the cup-shaped
bodies or creating a gear/spline as an integral part of
at least one of the cup-shaped bodies.

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5. The method defined in claim 4 including the
step of forming planetary gear shaft apertures to extend
from the outer surface to the inner surface of cup-
shaped bodies.

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